

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - February 2015

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
ARKANSAS, Central and North Central				
(AR-Z003) BOONE, (AR-Z004) MARION, (AR-Z005) BAXTER, (AR-Z006) FULTON, (AR-Z007) SHARP, (AR-Z012) NEWTON, (AR-Z013) SEARCY, (AR-Z015) IZARD, (AR-Z016) INDEPENDENCE, (AR-Z021) JOHNSON, (AR-Z022) POPE, (AR-Z023) VAN BUREN, (AR-Z024) CLEBURNE, (AR-Z025) JACKSON, (AR-Z031) CONWAY, (AR-Z032) FAULKNER, (AR-Z033) WHITE, (AR-Z034) WOODRUFF, (AR-Z039) PERRY, (AR-Z043) SALINE, (AR-Z044) PULASKI, (AR-Z045) LONOKE, (AR-Z046) PRAIRIE, (AR-Z047) MONROE	02/15/15 20:00 CST		0.36M	Winter Storm
	02/16/15 14:00 CST		0	
(AR-Z030) LOGAN, (AR-Z037) SCOTT, (AR-Z040) POLK, (AR-Z065) DESHA, (AR-Z066) OUACHITA, (AR-Z067) CALHOUN, (AR-Z068) BRADLEY, (AR-Z069) DREW	02/15/15 22:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/16/15 15:00 CST		0	
(AR-Z038) YELL, (AR-Z041) MONTGOMERY, (AR-Z042) GARLAND, (AR-Z052) PIKE, (AR-Z053) CLARK, (AR-Z054) HOT SPRING, (AR-Z055) GRANT, (AR-Z056) JEFFERSON, (AR-Z057) ARKANSAS, (AR-Z062) DALLAS, (AR-Z063) CLEVELAND, (AR-Z064) LINCOLN	02/15/15 22:00 CST		1.05M	Ice Storm
	02/16/15 14:00 CST		0	

After a mild and quiet start to the month and much of the year, a quick change in seasons was provided by Arctic high pressure in the Ohio Valley. Meanwhile, a storm system approached from the southern Plains, with moisture building into the state from the Gulf of Mexico during the evening hours of the 15th. Snow and sleet developed across the northern third of the state into southern Missouri that evening. Freezing rain and sleet developed across the central third of the state, with just a cold rain across the south. The cold rain gradually transitioned into a freezing rain and sleet mix as temperatures dropped across the south during the overnight and early morning hours on the 16th. Accumulations of 2 to 4 inches of snow and sleet were seen across the northern third of the state, with some higher amounts across the far northwest. Central sections of the state saw freezing rain amounts of one tenth to one quarter inch, with 1 to 2 inches of sleet and snow on top of the ice. The southern third of the state saw mostly just freezing rain, with amounts of a tenth across the far south, to one quarter to over one half inch of ice from around Mt. Ida, Hot Springs and Arkadelphia, eastward to Pine Bluff and De Witt. Many roads across the area became treacherous, with numerous traffic accidents as a result. Significant ice accumulations also caused power outages across southern sections of the state, some of which lasted several hours and even days in some rural locations.



A thick glaze of ice weighed down vegetation at Pine Bluff (Jefferson County). Photo courtesy of Andrew McMahan via Twitter.

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(AR-Z003) BOONE, (AR-Z004) MARION, (AR-Z005) BAXTER, (AR-Z006) FULTON, (AR-Z007) SHARP, (AR-Z012) NEWTON, (AR-Z013) SEARCY, (AR-Z014) STONE, (AR-Z016) INDEPENDENCE, (AR-Z023) VAN BUREN, (AR-Z024) CLEBURNE, (AR-Z025) JACKSON, (AR-Z032) FAULKNER, (AR-Z033) WHITE, (AR-Z034) WOODRUFF, (AR-Z039) PERRY, (AR-Z044) PULASKI, (AR-Z045) LONOKE	02/20/15 06:00 CST		0.78M	Winter Weather
	02/20/15 22:00 CST		0	
<p>Arctic high pressure brought in a cold air mass to the state. At the same time, a storm system approached from the southwest. Moisture ahead of the system flowed into subfreezing air, resulting in patchy light wintry precipitation during the morning hours on the 20th. While ice accumulations were minor (a few hundredths of an inch), it was enough to create travel issues and many accidents across the area.</p>				
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(AR-Z021) JOHNSON, (AR-Z022) POPE, (AR-Z030) LOGAN, (AR-Z031) CONWAY, (AR-Z032) FAULKNER, (AR-Z037) SCOTT, (AR-Z038) YELL, (AR-Z039) PERRY, (AR-Z040) POLK, (AR-Z041) MONTGOMERY, (AR-Z042) GARLAND, (AR-Z043) SALINE, (AR-Z044) PULASKI	02/23/15 10:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/23/15 20:00 CST		0	
<p>Another winter storm system arrived from Oklahoma and Texas during the morning hours on the 23rd, and spread across the area. Intermittent light snow fell over the western and central counties, with sleet and a few snowflakes toward the Louisiana border. This was not a huge event, but up to four inches of snow and some sleet were observed. Problems on area roads were a given with well below normal temperatures. Temperatures failed to warm above freezing at most locations.</p>				
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(AR-Z041) MONTGOMERY, (AR-Z045) LONOKE, (AR-Z046) PRAIRIE, (AR-Z047) MONROE, (AR-Z052) PIKE, (AR-Z053) CLARK, (AR-Z054) HOT SPRING, (AR-Z056) JEFFERSON, (AR-Z057) ARKANSAS, (AR-Z062) DALLAS, (AR-Z063) CLEVELAND, (AR-Z064) LINCOLN, (AR-Z065) DESHA, (AR-Z066) OUACHITA, (AR-Z067) CALHOUN, (AR-Z068) BRADLEY	02/25/15 07:00 CST		0	Winter Storm
	02/25/15 20:00 CST		0	
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(AR-Z040) POLK, (AR-Z042) GARLAND, (AR-Z043) SALINE, (AR-Z044) PULASKI	02/25/15 08:00 CST		0	Winter Weather
	02/25/15 16:00 CST		0	

Winter was in high gear on February 25th as an intense storm system aloft threw moisture into cold conditions over central and southern Arkansas. That led to widespread snow. Precipitation started as a brief wintry mix (rain, freezing rain and sleet) given a warm layer aloft. Eventually, as temperatures cooled aloft, snow was the dominant precipitation type. Snow totals of five to more than six inches were reported at many locations across the southern half of the state. Snow tapered off in southwest Arkansas by mid afternoon, and ended in central sections of the state by late afternoon. Snow pushed east across the Mississippi River shortly after sunset.

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Heavy snow fell in Star City (Lincoln County) on 02/25/2015. The photo is courtesy of Kelly Haynes via Twitter.

(AR-Z003) BOONE, (AR-Z004) MARION, (AR-Z005) BAXTER, (AR-Z006) FULTON, (AR-Z007) SHARP, (AR-Z012) NEWTON, (AR-Z013) SEARCY, (AR-Z014) STONE, (AR-Z015) IZARD, (AR-Z021) JOHNSON, (AR-Z022) POPE, (AR-Z023) VAN BUREN, (AR-Z030) LOGAN, (AR-Z037) SCOTT, (AR-Z038) YELL, (AR-Z039) PERRY, (AR-Z040) POLK	02/27/15 14:00 CST	0	Winter Weather
	02/28/15 23:00 CST	0	

With cold arctic high pressure in place on the 27th, a weak upper level system moved towards the region, with more wintry weather developing during the afternoon and evening hours on the 27th. Mainly light snow fell across portions of the western and northwest Arkansas into the morning hours on the 28th. A brief lull was seen on the 28th, then some light freezing rain developed during the rest of the 28th. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches were observed, with an additional tenth to two tenths of an inch of freezing rain accumulating on top of the snowfall.